

*Civilisation and Races of Southern
Italy* 393

as "*in arte medicines valde peritus*,"
and tells
how he was called in to the sick-bed of
William L,
but the monarch would not accept
his advice'
and preferring more palatable potions,
aggravated
the complaint of which he died. *

A long and interesting story told by
Palcandus
again introduces the Archbishop as a
man skilled
in medicine, and though the scene is laid
in Palermo,
shows us the doctors of Salerno as
expert in deadly
and horrible poisons,² In 1166, on
the death
of William L, his son being a child, the
Regent
Margaret called in her kinsman
Stephen of
Perche, who was made Chancellor, He
thus displaced
Matthew of Ajello, the Grand
Notary,
who had hoped to gain that office. As
the latter
began to correspond with his brother
the Bishop
of Catania (spring of 1167), Stephen
set one
Robert of Belltoe (Bellesino) to
intercept the
messengers, one of whom was waylaid
and wounded
while his companion escaped with the
letters,
Matthew determined on revenge, and,
Robert
falling ill of a fever, introduced into the
sick-room,
among the doctors appointed by the
Chancellor, a
doctor of Salerno who had been
promoted by his in-
fluence to be judge in that city, Next
Robert died,

and Ms doctors were astonished to find
that his hair

* Romuold, *M. G. If. SS.*, t. x!x, p. 435, or Del
R&, i, p. 206.
King William died while still young, In n66, of a
"fluxus ventris
cui mult* itlutaia medicinee consilia tribuit"
(Romualdus).
"Sed ipse mi ingenii auctoritate confisus sibi non
nisi quae oppor-
tune vJdebfntur medicaraina adhibebat."
* Filcaadii. in Del R&, i,» p. 361, ' ..